(c) and (d) Airlines start air services to a foreign destination from international airports depending upon bilateral agreements, traffic requirements and commercial viability etc. At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

Agreements under open sky policy

†117. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the new countries with which Government have entered into an agreement under open sky policy; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The only Air Services Agreement signed by the Government which is based on 'Open Skies' principle is with USA. This agreement provides for unlimited access to the designated airlines without any restriction on points of call on reciprocal basis.

Permission for air ambulance service

†118. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded permission to a few hospitals to launch air ambulance service keeping in view their demand for providing quicker treatment; and

(b) if so, the names of such hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No permission has been accorded specifically to launch air ambulance services. Aircraft can however, be chartered from non-scheduled operators for such services.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.